

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Rector's Ramblings

In our reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans last Sunday, Paul made the statement that we are justified by faith. This is one of the elements that is characteristic of Paul's understanding of the Gospel. The statement is a quotation from Habakkuk 2:4.

The word that is translated "faith" is an interesting word. It can be rendered either "faith" or "faithfulness". To say that we are justified by faith or faithfulness raises a couple of important questions. Are we justified by trust, or are we justified by fidelity? If it is by fidelity, whose fidelity is it?

In his letters of the Galatians and the Romans, Paul cites the faith of Abraham. In Romans, Paul stated that Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him [Abraham] as righteousness. In reading that statement, it would be easy to imagine that Abraham had an unwavering trust in God. However, if you read the account of Abraham's life in Genesis, it is clear that there were times when Abraham's faith was not so constant. His failure of faith caused serious consequences for those around him.

If it is our faith, our unflinching trust in God, that makes us righteous, we are all in a hopeless situation. Perhaps it is not simply our faith that puts us in a right relationship with God, but

also God's faithfulness that sustains that relationship. Christian faith is not about adhering to a set of propositional statements. Those statements are important, because they tell us which God we trust. Christian faith is about trusting a particular God who has revealed himself in Jesus. In the creeds we say we believe in God, and this is the God in whom we believe.

It is ultimately God's faithfulness to His promises that saves us. Our faith in God's faithfulness puts us in a relationship with Him. Even when our faith wavers, God remains faithful to His promises. Just as God remained faithful to Abraham, God remains faithful to us.

Fr. RJ



Holy Eucharist, June 19, 8 and 10 a.m.

[Lessons](#)

[Bulletin](#)

[Live Stream](#)

Wednesday, June 22

Evening Prayer, 4 p.m. (Zoom)

[Bulletin](#) [Zoom](#)

Save the Date: Reception to say "farewell" to the Kennedys, following the 10 a.m. service on June 26th.

NOTE:

Sunday School will resume after Labor Day.

OSSS

The One Stop Service Shop has been a valuable ministry within the Parish of St. Mark's. Unfortunately, we need to suspend the ministry, at least for a time, as we seek new

volunteers to meet the needs of this ministry. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, we are seeking people who are able to assist with odd jobs around the house, do light cleaning, or light gardening. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact Fr. RJ at rjohnson@stmarks-canton.org.

The St. Mark's Meal Train will continue to offer meals to those in need of short-term help with meals. If you need meals delivered, Beth Bletzacker coordinates the St. Mark's Meal Train. You may email her at kirkandbeth@yahoo.com or contact the church office, and we will pass the message along.

The Diocese has continued to offer easy online giving. To use this, please select "St. Mark's Canton" from the dropdown, and choose either a one-time or recurring gift. We thank you for your continued support.

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Bob's Music Notes

My days at the North Avenue Church in Baltimore were fulfilling now that I had a brand new Hammond Organ to play, and I was planning some recitals on it to show the congregation just what this new instrument was all about.

Meanwhile, a new fellow had joined the congregation, Charles Strickler, and he was warmly welcomed -- in fact, so warmly that he was made chair of the trustees. It turned out that Mr. Strickler had some ideas about how things should be done, and I was his first target.

He sent me a letter saying that he had observed the organ being open well before the service which, according to him, would invite vandalism. He added that the cover should be locked in accordance with the rules that were familiar. This was



news to me; there were no "rules" at all to my knowledge. I routinely opened the organ when I arrived at church and then went downstairs for Sunday School and choir warmup. I had to hurry upstairs to play the prelude and didn't have extra time to open things up.

Well, the pastor told me to ignore this message, which I did. And my plans for a recital went forward with dispatch; the affair was well attended. But then came another letter from Brother Strickler saying that I had turned "a lifeboat into a showboat."



June Birthdays

1 Judy Hixon
3 Carol Popovich, Zeke Gordon
6 Paul Sack
9 Jeff Turner, Tim Turner
17 Evan Jenkins
24 Bruce Schutrum
28 Abi Highman

June Anniversaries

1 Ronald and Joyce Rupp
17 Charlie and MaryAnn Kiesling
20 Beth and Kirk Bletzacker,
Paul and Gail Wetherell Sack
27 John and Sarah Highman

Prayer Concerns

Fred Gibbs, Jim Weaver, Jane Schutrum, Ron Hill, Amelia Rowland, Ron Brookes

Family and Friends: Allison Hood (anonymous); Baby Finnigan Savage & family & Terry L. (friends of Pam McCarthy); Dan Dennis (friend of John Werren); Jimmy Little

(Sue Little's son); Bob Patterson, Anne Higgins & Nancy Sauer (friends of Diana Cornell); Lynn McBride (Beth Crowl's father); Bonnie Giammarco & 2 daughters (Gary's cousin Jerry); Lenny Reich (acquaintance of the Hixons); Kahmario Coleman & Stew Hudson (family friend & husband of Jan Hudson); Aurora (friend of the Gordons); Matt Gagnon (assistant principal at Oakwood Middle School); Theresa & Addelyn (friends of Judy Hixon); Yanette Pysher (Vonda Temelkoff's cousin); Sandy Snyder & Doug Fulton (friend & brother-in-law of the Rands); Lynnda Hoefler (friends of Sue Little); Janet Sheatzley Morgan (Barb Siegfried's sister); Tony Donahue & Beth Conley (friends of Cricket Boyd); Carol Jones (daughter of Buck & BJ Jones); Lesley & Holly (friends of Paulette Frech); Marc Hostetler (brother of Susan Hostetler); Baby David (friend of the Schaub); Bob Patterson (friends of Diana Cornell); Sullivan & Guzman families & Pastor Marilyn Roman (friends of the Mulls); Johnny Willoughby (grandson of the Willoughbys); Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver).

For those who have died.
For those in the armed forces.

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for the specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Prayer requests may be placed on the private Prayer Chain or on the Prayer Concerns list appearing in The Lion's Pause and Sunday bulletin or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference. Unless otherwise instructed, names will be listed as we receive them. Please update Bobbi or Katie on the status of your friends or family members as to when they may be removed from the prayer lists.

Contact Us:

Fr. RJ
Office
Wardens



Need to update your directory listing, birthday, or anniversary? Update [here](#).



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We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"